ELECTORAL POLITICS: A JOURNEY

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An interactive guide to understanding how democracy works in India.

Based on NCERT Political Science, C

Act I: The Call for Change

The Setting: Haryana, 1987. Congress had ruled since 1982.

The Leader: Chaudhary Devi Lal led the movement 'Nyaya Yudh' (Struggle for Justice) - *written in Kalam font for Hindi text.*

The Promise: If elected, he would **WAIVE LOANS** for farmers and small businessmen.

The Result: Devi Lal's coalition won a **massive victory:** 76 out of 90 seats. Congress won only 5.

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Fun Fact: Devi Lal became the Chief Minister within three days of the election results!

CHECKPOINT 1: THE HARYANA CASE

Q1: What was the name of the movement led by Chaudhary Devi Lal?

A) Lok Yudh
B) Nyaya Yudh
C) Kranti Yudh

Q2: Why do we need elections?

A) To create chaos
B) To solve problems & change representatives
C) To make politicians rich

THE ARENA: CONSTITUENCIES

India is divided into specific areas called Constituencies (*Nirvachan Kshetra*).

1. Lok Sabha (National): 543 Constituencies.
Elected leader = MP (Member of Parliament).

2. Vidhan Sabha (State): State-specific seats (e.g., 90 in Haryana).
Elected leader = MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly).

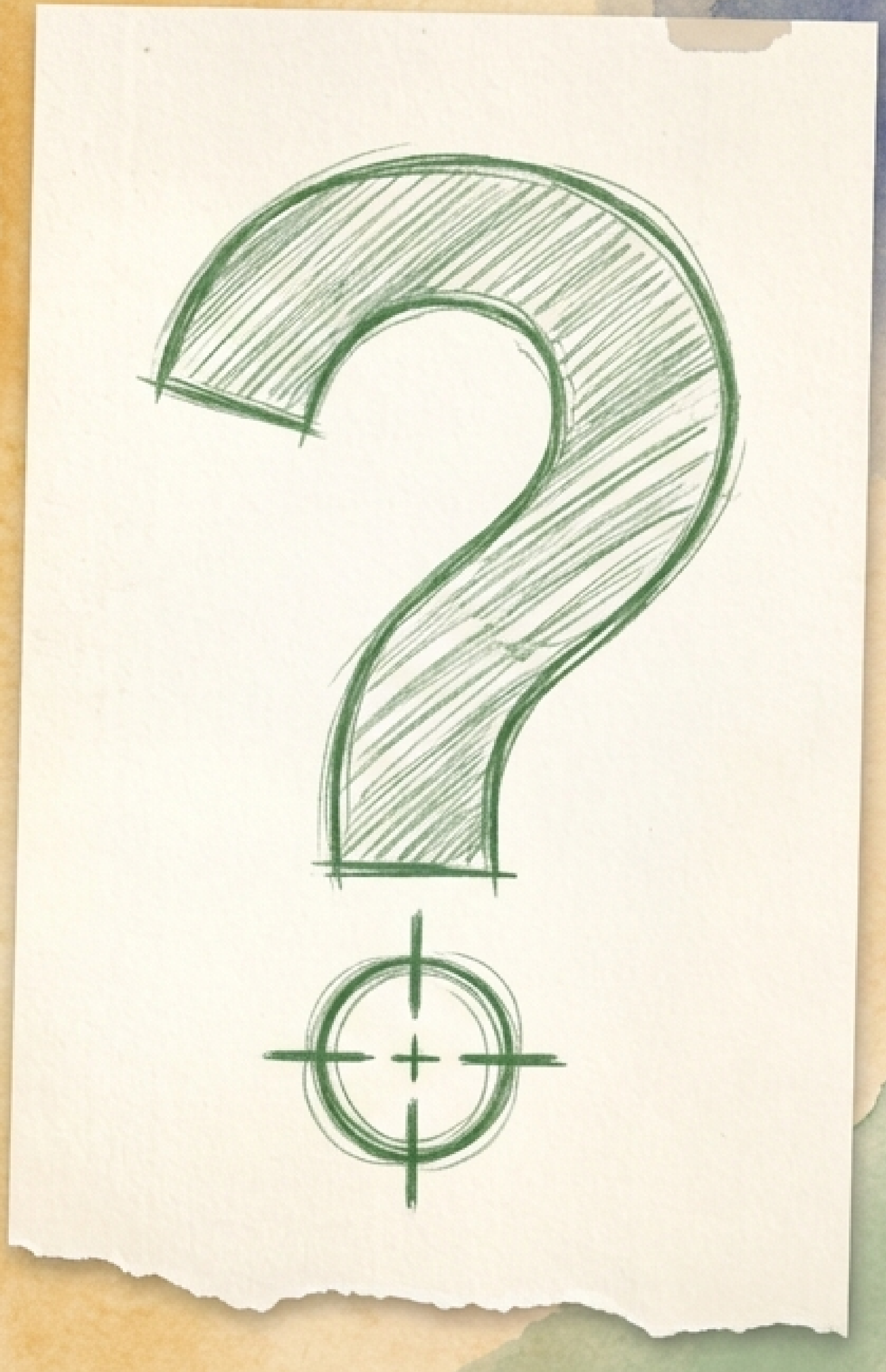
ONE VOTE, ONE VALUE

CHECKPOINT 2: THE MAP

Did You Know? To ensure fair representation for historically disadvantaged groups, some seats are 'Reserved'.

1. **Q3:** As of 2019, how many Lok Sabha seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC)?
   A) 47
   B) 84
   C) 79

2. **Q4:** In a reserved constituency for Scheduled **Tribes** (ST), who can run?
   A) Anyone
   B) Only someone from a Scheduled Tribe



THE PLAYERS: THE VOTERS

- **The List:** Officially the ‘Electoral Roll’, commonly the Voters’ List (*Matdata Suchi*).
- **Who?:** All citizens aged 18 YEARS+, regardless of caste, religion, or gender.
- **The ID:** Voters need an Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) or other valid ID to vote.

The government must update this list before every election!

THE PLAYERS: THE CANDIDATES

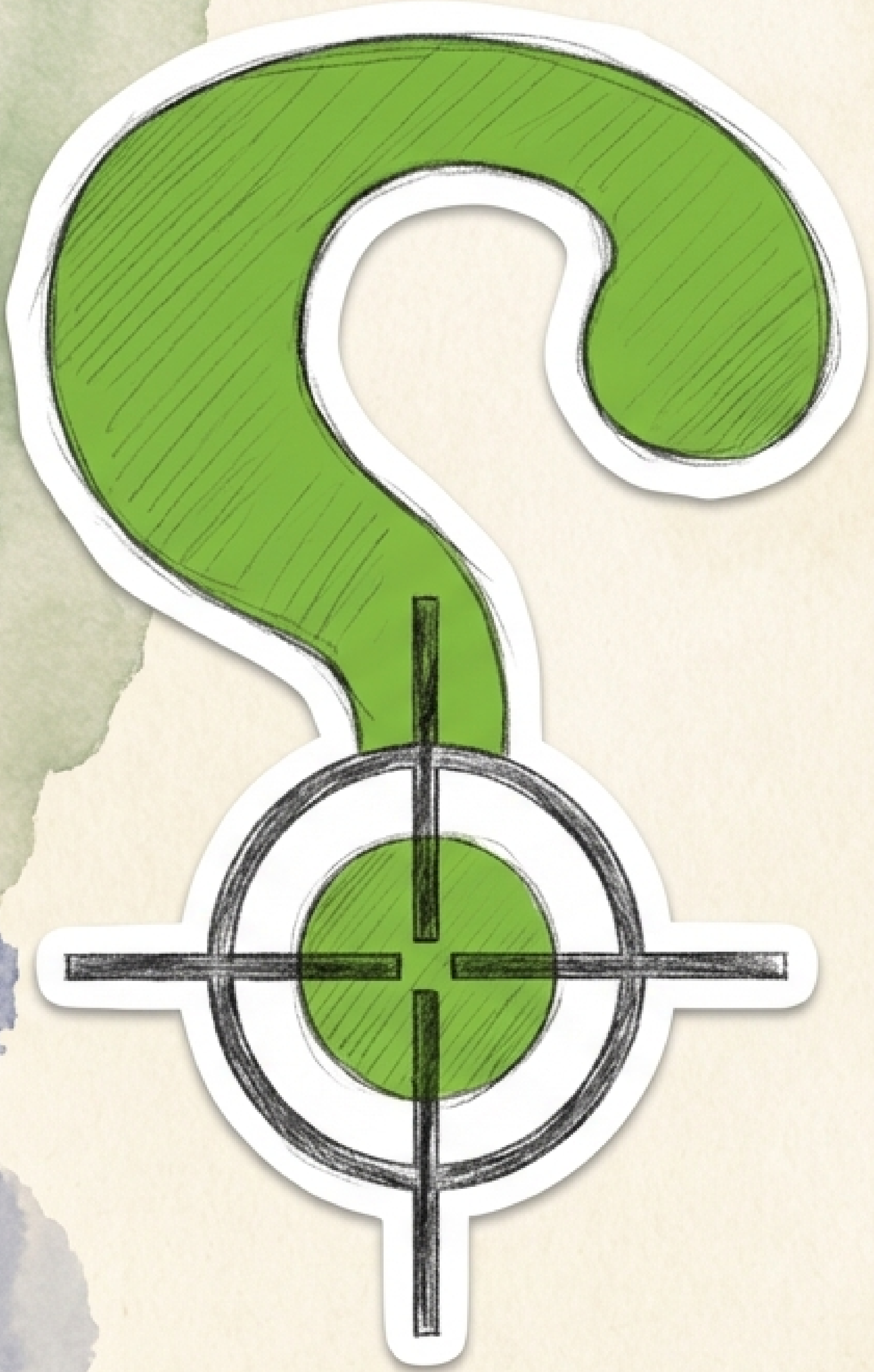
Who can run? Any voter aged 25 YEARS+.

Why no educational degree?

> *"Just as a cricketer needs the ability to bowl or bat, not a degree, an MP/MLA needs the ability to understand people's concerns."*

Requiring a degree would deprive millions of citizens the right to contest elections.

CHECKPOINT 3: TRUE OR FALSE?



Statement: You must have a university degree to become an MLA in India.
Answer: FALSE (Understanding people is the qualification!)

Statement: A person who is 21 years old can vote but cannot stand for election.
Answer: TRUE (Voting age is 18, Candidate age is 25).

Statement: Candidates must legally declare their assets and criminal cases.
Answer: TRUE (Mandated by the Supreme Court).

THE BATTLE RULES: MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

FORBIDDEN ACTS:

- Bribing or threatening voters.
- Appealing to caste or religion.
- Using *government resources (vehicles, officials)* for campaigning.

RESTRICTIONS:

- No laying foundation stones for new projects once elections are announced.
- Strict spending limits on campaigns.

CHECKPOINT 4: REFEREE'S WHISTLE

Activity: Allowed or Not Allowed?

Scenario: A Minister uses his official siren car for a campaign rally.

✗ **Verdict: NOT ALLOWED** (Misuse of government machinery).

Scenario: A candidate promises to build a new hospital if elected.

✓ **Verdict: ALLOWED** (Policy promise).

Scenario: A candidate asks for votes inside a temple.

✗ **Verdict: NOT ALLOWED** (Use of religious place).

THE WATCHDOG: ELECTION COMMISSION (EC)

- **INDEPENDENCE:** The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is appointed by the President but is **NOT answerable** to the President or Government.
- **POWER:** The EC takes decisions on all aspects of elections and can order a re-poll if unfairness is detected.
- **CONTROL:** On election duty, government officers report to the EC, not the government.

"It is virtually impossible to remove the CEC."

CHECKPOINT 5: THE POWER OF THE EC

Quiz Block 1

Q8: Who appoints the Chief Election Commissioner?

A) The Prime Minister

B) The President of India

C) The Chief Justice

Quiz Block 2

Q9: True or False: The ruling government can order the Election Commission to change the election dates.

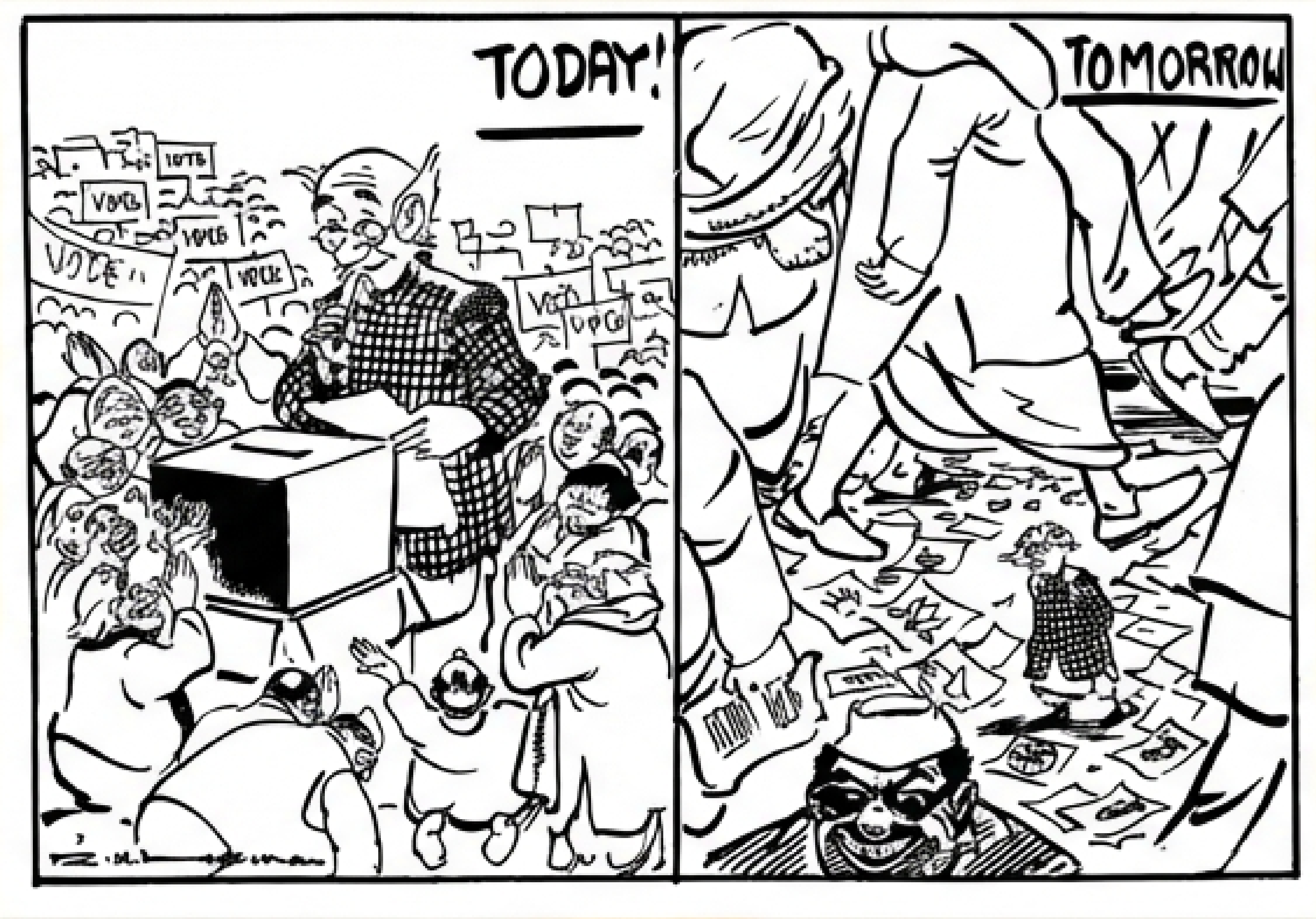
Answer: FALSE
(The EC is independent).

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

THE VERDICT: DO PEOPLE VOTE?

- **Voter Turnout:** The % of eligible voters who cast their vote.
- **The Trend:** Unlike the West, turnout in India has remained stable or increased.
- **The Participant:** In India, the poor, illiterate, and underprivileged vote in LARGER proportions than the rich.
- **The Feeling:** Common people feel their vote matters.

The Dark Side: Challenges


TODAY!
VOTE
VOTE
VOTE
VOTE
TOMORROW

Analysis

TODAY (Election Day): The politician begs for votes.
TOMORROW (After Winning): The politician tramples promises.

The challenges

- **Money Power:** Advantage for the rich.
- **Criminal Connection:** Bad elements pushing others out.
- **Dynastic Succession:** Tickets given to family members.

FINAL CHECKPOINT: “Dynastic succession” means:

A) Voting for the best candidate

✓ B) Tickets given to family members of leaders

THE VOTER’S PLEDGE

We, the citizens of India… pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections.